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UNCLAS ANKARA 006724

SIPDIS

STATE FOR AC/ISN, USUN FOR UNFCDEL

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: TURKEY SUPPORTIVE OF THE U.S. IN 58TH UNGA FIRST COMMITTEE

REF: STATE 295420

PolMilOff delivered reftel demarche on improving the operation of the UNGA First Committee to MFA Disarmament Head of Department Bulent Meric October 22. On October 24, Meric gave PolMilOff a "preliminary reaction," saying the text of resolution "looked fine." However, after having checked with the Turkish mission in New York, Meric learned that no consensus had yet emerged because the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) had numerous questionable amendment proposals. According to the Turkish UN mission, if the NAM continued with its "killer amendments" the US intended to withdraw its support for the resolution. So as not to be left in the embarrassing position of co-sponsoring the resolution after the US withdrew its support, Turkey was waiting to see how the resolution would look in the end. But, in general, Meric said Turkey's views on the issue were in line with Washington's.
EDELMAN